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ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

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November 20, 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Public Safety Broadband Trust

Submitted electronically

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Orange County Fire Authority I am writing to express our support for the proposed concept to build a nationwide, wireless broadband network for public safety. While I cannot speak specifically to the proposal from Cyren Call Communications our first responders and others directly involved with protecting our homeland deserve sufficient spectrum combined with innovative funding methods to access the most advanced wireless communications services and technology.

Despite ongoing calls from government officials and billions of dollars spent to improve interoperability, our nation's first responders continue to rely upon antiquated technology, expensive equipment and stove-piped systems throughout the country that cannot communicate with each other. Our nation has a unique opportunity to use a contiguous, 30 MHz block of frequencies in the upper 700 MHz band to provide public safety an advanced, nationwide communications network that would be controlled by public safety and harness the economic benefits of a shared public/private partnership with commercial wireless operators. This

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proposal is innovative and seeks to cohesively resolve the multitude of problems contributing to public safety's communications problems by joining public and private interests.

Again I believe that the key features of any proposal should include the licensing of the 30 MHz block to a Public Safety Broadband Trust that would control and manage the spectrum. This broadband application would benefit public safety needs for text messaging, photos, diagrams, video to support hazardous material teams, command post operations, interoperability and other services not currently available in our public safety land mobile systems. Also, any next generation network should be designed with input by public safety and while commercial operators should be allowed to use any excess capacity public safety should be given priority access.



I urge the FCC Commissioners, Congressional Representatives and other decision-makers in Washington, D.C. to fulfill their obligation to act in the public interest. Time is of the essence and if action is not taken quickly, the frequencies will be auctioned in early 2008 for commercial purposes and this opportunity will be lost forever. Please prioritize public safety by setting aside a portion of these frequencies and creating a Public Safety Broadband Trust.

Respectfully,

Chip Prather
Fire Chief

jb

c: Congressman John Campbell
Congressman Ken Calvert
Congressman Gary Miller
Congressman Dana Rohrabacher
Congressman Ed Royce
Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein